

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 and 16-19 are pending.

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 12 and 13.

Applicants submit herewith a substitute specification in order to correct minor errors discovered therein and to add headings in accordance with preferred U.S. patent practice. Applicants have also amended the Abstract to place it in better form in accordance with preferred U.S. patent practice. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

The claims have been amended to place them in better form in accordance with preferred U.S. patent practice.

Claims 1-8, 10-11 and 14-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tholander (U.S. Patent No. 4,595,039).

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tholander in view of Takegawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,830,063).

These rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that it is directed to switching-on more than one air nozzle. It is respectfully submitted that Tholander discloses switching-on only single air nozzles. Switching on more than one air nozzle depending upon the predicted position of the weft thread tip is a clear improvement over that which is disclosed in Tholander since it allows for the adaptation of switching-on nozzles such that an optimum blowing zone is generated. Moreover, the length of the blowing zone may be adapted to the actual or predicted speed of the weft thread tip. This allows for achievement of superior control of the weft thread insertion at minimum air consumption. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now allowable.

Claims 2-11 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and therefore, they are allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable.

New claim 16 combines the features of originally filed claims 1 and 6 with the additional feature that the switching-off of the relevant air nozzle or air nozzles, respectively, is delayed in relation to the switching-on of one of the subsequent air nozzles. The delayed switching-off is shown, for example, in Figure 3 where the switching-off of the air nozzles overlaps the switching-on of the subsequent air nozzles in both of the illustrated insertion profiles A and B. In contrast thereto, Tholander does not disclose delayed switching-off in relation to the switching-on of a subsequent air nozzle. Instead, Tholander discloses each air nozzle being switched-off simultaneously with the switching-on of the subsequent air nozzles (See, for example, col. 9, lines 10-16). The overlapping of switching-off provided by a system as claimed in claim 16 is a big improvement since it allows a better control of the weft thread insertion where air consumption may be kept as low as possible. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 16 is allowable.

New claims 17 and 18 depend on claim 16 and therefore, they are allowable for at least the reasons claim 16 is allowable.

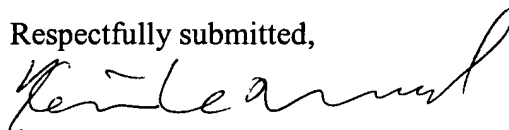
Claim 19 is directed to a system that carries out the method steps recited in claim 12. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a formal notification to that effect at an early date is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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